

Appl. No. 10/734,419

REMARKS

Claims 34 and 38 are amended. Claims 35 and 39 are cancelled. Claims 34, ~~36-38~~ and 40-47 are pending in the application.

Applicant acknowledges the Examiner's indicated allowance of claims ~~45-47~~ and allowability of the subject matter of claims 35, 36 and 39-44.

Claims 34, 37 and 38 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as claiming the same invention as claims issued in U.S. Patent No. 6,693,345 or U.S. Patent No 6,417,559. Without admission as to the propriety of the Examiner's rejection, independent claim 34 is amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 35, and independent claim 38 is amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 39. Claims 35 and 39 are appropriately cancelled. Independent claims 34 and 38 are allowable for at least the reason that they recite subject matter indicated by the Examiner to be allowable.

Dependent claims 36, 37 and 40-44 are allowable in dependent form for at least the reason that they depend from corresponding allowable base claims 34 and 38.

For the reasons discussed above, claims 34, 36-38 and 40-47 are allowable. Accordingly, applicant requests formal allowance of such pending claims in the Examiner's next action.

Respectfully submitted,

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